

# Minutes of the Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture July 7, 2014

**Attending:** Barbara Costa, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel (chaired), Adria Arch, David Ardito (took minutes), Carla Dorato and Aimee Taberner

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel.

1. Minutes of June 5th meeting were reviewed and approved as amended.
2. **Adria Arch updated on status of Arts and Cultural Liaison position.** Amy Sawin has accepted the position. Amy's qualifications include her familiarity with Arlington, her availability for ACAC and other meetings, her social media and organizational skills. The expectation is for her to devote between 5-10 hours per week to ACAC business and she will use the space allocated for the ACAC in the Town Hall near Adam Chapdelaine's office. This position is for six months with a review to renew the term. The ACAC views this volunteer position as a placeholder that will hopefully evolve into a paid position that serves the ACAC.

Discussion followed about the possible responsibilities for the position:

- Create inventory of existing public art and this would include making connections with all cultural organizations including the Dallin Museum, the Robbins Library. This inventory and research could include a needs assessment for repair and maintenance. Aimee could be the advisor for the inventory. Adria could help supervise this effort. Former ACAC member Roly Chaput could be consulted.
- An Arts and Culture website and calendar as well as an official town email address.
- The Liaison will attend ACAC meetings and become familiar with the cultural organizations in town and attend those organizations' meetings when possible.

## 3. Reports on recent meetings:

### a) With Adam C. and Carol Kowalski (Stephanie and Aimee)

The need to formalize and clarify our relationship with ATED was discussed. Adam said that we could request to the BoS that ATED should report to us regularly.

Adam seemed generally open to the idea of town funds for Arts and Culture; specific dollar amounts can be considered for particular requests, e.g., a cultural plan. Carol K. encourages us to identify red tape that are obstacles in our way (e.g. sign bylaw, busker) to facilitate progress in arts and culture. She still needs to be convinced that Cultural Plan should be part of a built environment. Aimee suggested that Adam come to ACAC quarterly meetings to further develop our relationship with the town and to take advantage of Adam's strong ideas and support.

### b) With Parks and Recreation (Stephanie and Adria)

Parks and Rec Dept would like a policy on public art and offered Brookline's guidelines for our review; Stephanie gave them our own guidelines for their review.

### c) Metropolitan Area Planning Council forum: Art, Culture, and Community: A Forum on Public Art & Planning (Barbara, Stephanie)

Stephanie reported that it is very important for ACAC members to be present at lots of meetings in town. See if funds from the Community Preservation Act (preservation, open space, affordable housing) could aid restoration and maintenance of Dallin sculpture, for example. (**ACTION: Aimee will ask Susan Stamp, Clarissa, others about how other Towns have spent CPA money.**) Aimee emailed the CPA summary and brochure to all present.

Other points: ideal for artists to have input from the beginning about new town projects including new building projects. Artists directories within Town could be developed. Need to ask Town Manager if we should spend time raising funds, or can Town help? (**ACTION: Carla will ask the MCC to inquire about funds for consultant fee for the Cultural Plan.**) Stephanie and Barbara met people in Watertown who are establishing a public art initiative, at early stages.

### **3. Cultural District planning**

A subcommittee will consist of Stephanie, Barbara and Aimee to meet between now and September (**ACTION**). Carla may be available at times.

### **4. Fundraising**

Establishing Cultural Districts is encouraged by Meri Jenkins (of Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC)); a way to become eligible for different kinds of aid/funding.

(**ACTION: Come up with a figure for Adam Chapdelaine for the amount of funds that would be needed to fund the Cultural Planning process.**)

### **5. New Business**

(**ACTION: A meeting with Meri Jenkins will be set up with Stephanie, Barbara and Adria**)

(**ACTION: Carla will ask Meri Jenkins what she knows about funding for Cultural Planning**)

**ACTION: We need to write an article as promotion for the ACAC.** Several volunteered to work on this in August.

Barbara reported that Jeff Munro of ACMI is interested in doing a series on arts and culture.

The open position on the ACAC was discussed. (**ACTION: Remind Adam to post opening**)

**(ACTION: Put out a call to advisors)**

Discussion of Town Day presence: Not ready but we could distribute mission statement.

Adria recommended that we establish a Business-Arts collaboration award for Arlington businesses that continually support arts and culture in Arlington.

Stephanie suggested the idea of arts-friendly business decals.

Note: There will be no ACAC meeting in August

**Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.**